

Kidwise

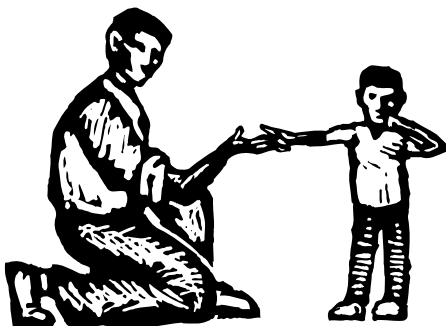
WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN PARENTS MISTREAT THEIR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC

1. DIVERT THE ANGRY
ATTENTION AWAY
FROM THE CHILD.

2. OFFER
SYMPATHY AND
HELP.

3. FIND SOMETHING TO
COMPLIMENT OR PRAISE
ABOUT THE PARENT OR
CHILD.

4. QUIETLY
STAND GUARD
OVER A CHILD
LEFT ALONE.



YOUR OBVIOUS
DISAPPROVAL OR ANGER
MAY INCREASE THE
PARENT'S ANGER AND
MAKE THINGS WORSE.

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**Prevent Child Abuse
Virginia**

When Parents Mistreat Their Children in Public...

Often, your patience and understanding help to show parents how to react to their children's misbehavior.

1. Sympathize with the parent. Say something like, "She seems to be trying your patience," or "My child used to get upset like that."
2. Divert the angry attention away from the child. Strike up a conversation with the adult. Ask a question or directions, anything to provide a distraction, so that the parent can regain control of his/her emotions and the anger can subside.
3. Compliment or praise the parent or child. Say something positive. "What a big, strong boy you have! How old is he?" or "It's a lot of work to shop with a toddler. You have my admiration for managing it!"
4. Offer sympathy and help. Sometimes a parent's anger is fueled by some embarrassment at the fuss the child is making. Say something like, "Children sure can wear you out! Is there anything I can do to help?" "Taking kids out to eat is hard!" Or, how about, "I have a pencil and paper in my briefcase. Would your child like to draw pictures while he is waiting?"

5. Alert the store manager if you have serious concerns about the child's physical safety.

6. Quietly stand guard if the child is being neglected and is in jeopardy. For example, a child may be left unattended in a grocery cart or a toddler at a street or parking lot curbside.

DO NOT give dirty looks or make snide remarks. Disapproval or anger will only increase the parent's anger and make matters worse. If someone else in a store or restaurant is clearly disapproving, step in and be an obvious ally to the parent by offering a kind remark or some help.

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